Beware of the Scribes

> **But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. 1 John 2:27 (KJV)**

When I got serious about learning of spiritual matters I did lots of research. I read books and reviews of books, I scoured bookstores for texts new and old to help me. I was determined to learn my doctrine from the teachings of the most learned of men, to get it right. I remember standing one day in a Christian bookstore with a different book in each hand, praying to God asking which one I should get because I couldn't afford both. The Holy Spirit spoke so clearly to my heart, telling me that there was no need to get any books, but that He wanted to teach me directly from the Word.

I thank God that I have heeded the Spirit since that day. We need to trust the Spirit to guide us into all truth, because once the Spirit teaches us something we are no longer plagued with uncertainty in that matter. I once had someone insist to me that we have not even begun to grasp the spiritual truth of scripture until we have read it in every bible version and compared them, then studied the underlying Greek or Hebrew. What nonsense!

> **Beware of the scribes, which desire to walk in long robes, and love greetings in the markets, and the highest seats in the synagogues, and the chief rooms at feasts; Luke 20:46 (KJV)**

There are many men out there who have spent much money to get a doctorate in theology who do not have a lick of spiritual discernment. There are also those who take great pride in their titles, insisting they be called pastor or doctor. But the Holy Spirit levels the playing field, there is no more priesthood. Christ is our High Priest.

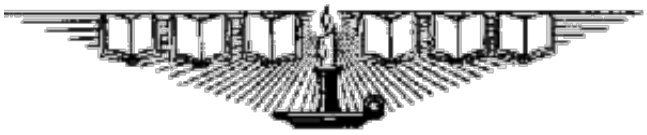
Because I heeded the Spirit in this area I have learned that quite often the doctrine that is commonly taught in the seminary is more tradition than truth. These doctrines of course end up being taught in the churches, and go largely uncontested because it is assumed the person who went to Bible school is more learned than the average Christian. Scripture is not debated in any meaningful way, and anyone who wishes to do so is more often than not considered to be "causing division" in a misapplication of **Romans 16:17** .

> **Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter**

of persons:
Acts 10:34 (KJV)

I am not suggesting that every book out there other than the bible is false doctrine, but there are certainly many that are. If we are not skilled in discernment we are much more likely to be deceived. Stick to the Holy Scriptures whenever possible, get some good Bible software to help you dig out the doctrine you want to understand. When we do choose to venture into the writings of men we must be as the Bereans and check every single concept against scripture.

> **For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.**
> **But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of**
> **use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**
> **Hebrews 5:13-14 (KJV)**

A baby relies on milk at first because it is easy for their underdeveloped systems to digest, but doesn't spend their entire life on it. Far too many Christians spend have spent their entire walk with Christ completely dependent on the milk of others. We are required to develop skill in the word of righteousness and learn how to digest the meat for ourselves without the aid of commentaries, books and yes, even pastors and other teachers.

When we read the writings of any person whether they be John Wesley or John MacArthur we must remember that we are reading the thoughts and ideas of men. Yes, those thoughts may be perfectly valid and good doctrine. But you have thoughts too, and I suggest to you that if you are living a righteous life and have the Holy Spirit operating in your life your thoughts are just as valid as those of any other man living or dead. We need to make room in our lives for the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself to us in a unique and profound way and stop putting others on pedestals.